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PP RUEAIB
 ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
 STU2242
 PP RUEHC
 DE RUFHBA #0133 0162017
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH
 P 162017Z JAN 84
 FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9799
 INFO RHFHRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 1016
 RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0897
 RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0372
 RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 0888
 RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1583
 RUFHRA/AMEMBASSY RABAT 3376
 RUDKKR/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 1413
 ZEN/AMCONSUL TANGIER
 RUEHDT/USUN NEW YORK 0019
 RHDLCNE/CINCUSNAVEUR HEIDELBERG GE
 RHFRAAB/CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GE
 RUFRRSH/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 RUSNNOA/UNCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 RUCPAAA/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
 RUCBSAA/FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 0133

JFA
 PR *R*
 NC *R*

PT *1*
 MB *✓*

file : HFA

Cong. Lantos

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PINS, MO
 SUBJECT: FURTHER REPORT ON MARRAKECH STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

REFS: (A) RABAT 303 (B) CASABLANCA 124 RABAT DAO 391
 (131705Z JAN 84)

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT

2. DURING VISIT OF CODEL LANTOS TO MARRAKECH JAN 11-14 CONGEN QUESTIONED DEPUTY GOVERNOR AND SEVERAL OTHER SOURCES ABOUT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN THAT CITY. ACCORDING TO THESE OFFICIALS, THE ISSUE WHICH SPARKED THE MANIFESTATIONS WAS A DECISION TO CHARGE LYCEE (HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS) A FEE, RANGING FROM 10 TO 50 DIRHAMS D\$1.25 TO \$6.25) TO COVER THE COST OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION THE FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAD DECIDED TO REQUIRE THESE DOCUMENTS, BIRTH CERTIFICATES, RESIDENCE PAPERS, POLICE GOOD CONDUCT, ETC. IN AN ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE WIDESPREAD ABUSES IN THE EXAM SYSTEM. THE MOST FREQUENT ABUSE WAS THE PRACTICE WHEREBY MEDIOCRE STUDENTS PAID GOOD STUDENTS TO SIT FOR EXAMS IN THE FORMERS' PLACE.

3. THE TROUBLES OCCURRED MANILY JAN 5-6 AND AGAIN ON JAN 9, STARTING AT ONE LYCEE. AND QUICKLY SPREADING TO OTHER LYCEES. AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, AUTHORITIES CLOSED DOWN THE UNIVERSITY. GOVERNOR MUSTAPHA TARIK AND THE LOCAL POLICE DELT WITH THE SITUATION BY BLANKETING SCHOOL NEIGHBORHOODS AND DEMONSTRATION SITES WITH HUNDREDS POLICE, GENDARMERIE AND MILITARY FORCES. BY JAN 10,

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MARRAKECH APPEARED QUITE CALM, AND BY JAN 11 MOST POLICE
AND MILITARY REINFORCEMENT WERE OFF THE STREETS.

4. LOCAL SOURCES GENERALLY DOWNPLAYED IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT MANIFESTATIONS. WE WERE UNABLE TO GET A CLEAR FIS ON HOW MANY CASUALTIES OCCURRED, IF ANY. MEDICAL OFFICER FOR MARRAKECH, WHO ALSO FUNCTIONS AS CORONER FOR MARRAKECH REGION, TOLD CASABLANCA CONOFF ON JANUARY 14 THAT NO DEATHS AS RESULT OF STUDENT DISTURBANCES HAD BEEN REPORTED TO HIS OFFICE. SINCE IT IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO INVESTIGATE ANY VIOLENT DEATHS, HE IS GRESSONABLE CERTAIN THAT THERE WERE NO FATALITIES. PRISON OFFICIALS ALSO TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER THAT THEY HAD NO NEW PRISONERS AS RESULY OF DISTURBANCES. PRISON OFFICIALS DID SAY THAT SOME DEMONSTRATORS (THEY USED FIGURE 12 TO 20) HAD BEEN HELD BY POLICE FOR QUESTIONING AND WERE PROBABLY STILL IN POLICE CUSTODY. GALANTO
END OF MESSAGE

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